

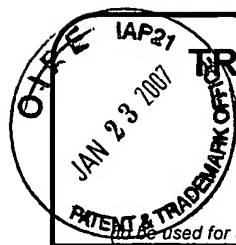
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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

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# TRANSMITTAL FORM

(To be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number		10/760,999	
Filing Date		January 20, 2004	
First Named Inventor		Mark Harbaugh	
Art Unit		3731	
Examiner Name		Erezo, Darwin P.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	50642/287728

## ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Form PTO/SB/08/ (01 sheet) 01 Publication
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>Remarks</b>    </div>		

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm	Kilpatrick Stockton, LLP		
Signature			
Printed Name	Michael A. Bertelson		
Date	Jan. 19, 2007	Reg. No.	54,713

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: HARBAUGH, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/760,999 Group Art Unit: 3731

FILED: January 20, 2004 Examiner: EREZO, Darwin P.

FOR: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PERFORMING  
MINIMALLY INVASIVE INCISIONS

Attorney Docket No.: 50642/287728

Date: January 19, 2007

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**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**


Sir:

In accordance with Rules 56, 97 and 98 of the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98), the publications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a are cited for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the cited non-U.S. publications are enclosed.

Submission of the references provided in this Supplemental Information Disclosure is not intended to constitute an admission that any reference referred to herein is prior art for this invention unless specially designated as such. Also, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b), before the mailing date of an office action on the merits. Applicants believe that no fee is due for consideration of this paper. However, if a fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael A. Bertelson  
Registration No. 54,713

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP  
Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-4530  
Phone (404) 815-6500



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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/760,999
		Filing Date	January 20, 2004
		First Named Inventor	Mark HARBAUGH
		Art Unit	3731
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	50642/287728

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		US-6,718,194	04-2004	Kienzle	
		US-2006/0161051 A1	07-20-2006	Terrill-Grisoni, et al.	

NON-U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		WO 2006/078236 A1	07-27-2006	Smith & Nephew, Inc.		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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